

1 HJR31  
2 135394-1  
3 By Representatives Holmes, Knight and McClammy  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 07-FEB-12

8 COMMENDING FRED GRAY ON THE OCCASION OF BEING  
9 HONORED BY JONES LAW SCHOOL AT FAULKNER UNIVERSITY.  
10

11 WHEREAS, highest commendation is herein conveyed to  
12 one of Alabama's most distinguished attorneys, Fred David  
13 Gray, on the occasion of being honored by Jones Law School of  
14 Faulkner University on February 9-10, 2012; and

15 WHEREIN, a resident of Tuskegee and a native of  
16 Montgomery, Mr. Gray is the senior partner in the firm of  
17 Gray, Langford, Sapp, McGowan, Gray, Gray, and Nathanson,  
18 P.C.; over the span of more than 57 years in the legal  
19 profession, he achieved success in a series of landmark civil  
20 rights cases that transformed the state and the nation and are  
21 cited in Constitutional Law textbooks; and

22 WHEREAS, among the legal milestones in which Mr.  
23 Gray played a key role were: the concept of one man one vote,  
24 the mandate to provide protection for freedom marchers, the  
25 end to systematic exclusion of Blacks from jury service, the  
26 integration of all State institutions of higher learning and

1 most of the school systems in Alabama, and the desegregation  
2 of buses in the City of Montgomery; and

3 WHEREAS, after being educated at the Nashville  
4 Christian Institute, Alabama State University, and Case  
5 Western Reserve University, he embarked upon his distinguished  
6 legal career in 1954 by representing Rosa Parks, followed by  
7 becoming the first civil rights attorney for Dr. Martin Luther  
8 King, Jr.; and

9 WHEREAS, renowned as a litigator, lecturer, and  
10 trailblazer, he was one of the first African-Americans elected  
11 to the Alabama House of Representatives since Reconstruction;  
12 he was the first African-American to be elected President of  
13 the Alabama State Bar Association, and he served as the 43rd  
14 President of the National Bar Association; he is a Fellow of  
15 the American Bar Foundation, American College of Trial  
16 Lawyers, and International Society of Barristers; in addition,  
17 he has served on many court-appointed committees including as  
18 a member of the Merit Selection of Appellate Judges Committee;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, few individuals can match Mr. Gray's legal  
21 achievements and contributions to mankind through a lifetime  
22 of dedicated service that has been marked by exceptional  
23 abilities, vision, courage, unquestioned integrity, and the  
24 relentless pursuit of justice; now therefore,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
26 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Fred David Gray is honored and  
27 commended, and this resolution is offered in highest tribute

1       and deepest appreciation to him, along with heartiest  
2       congratulations on being honored by the Jones School of Law of  
3       Faulkner University on February 9-10, 2012, with a dinner and  
4       symposium entitled: Attorney Fred Gray, A Change Agent for  
5       Civil Rights.